during the same period and the number of villages expected to get electricity in November and December, 1997 and in 1999, respectively; and

(c) by when Government propose to provide electricity for all in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The physical programme and financial outlays for Rural Electrification in the Ninth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. The Annual Plan for 1998-99 has not been finalised and hence no targets have been fixed month-wise for 1998. The Rural Electrification Corporation has proposed to electrify 283 villages during the months of November & December, 1997.

(c) Rural electrification in a continuous process and the remaining villages in the country will be electrified in the Ninth and the subsequent Five Year Plans depending upon the availability of financial resources, power supply position in the country, total network of transmission and distribution system that could be set up and other relevant inputs.

Participation of Private Sector in Small Power Generation Projects in Maharashtra

285. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging participation of private sector agencies in small power generation projects in Maharashtra to augment the rural electrification programme in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of private sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The policy of the Government of India encourages the setting up of Power Generation Projects of all sizes through private sector participation. Government has no information about any private power project being exclusively set up to augment the Rural Electrification Programme in the State of Maharashtra.

Private Power projects in Maharashtra

286. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of private power projects of Bhadrawati, Dabhol Khaperkheda and Patalganga in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Central and State Governments are monitoring the progress of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when each of these projects are likely to be completed and start generation of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The projects under question are being monitored by Ministry of Power and the present status of the projects is indicated below:-

Bhadrawati TPP (1082 MW)

The Project has received the Techno-economic Clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The major pending inputs are finalisation of the Power Purchased Agreement (PPA), finalisation of Coal Supply Agreement. Issue of Government of India (GoI) counter-guarantee and financial closure.